

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 05027 01 OF 02 292046Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OPIC-03 AF-06 ISO-00

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O R 291710Z AUG 75 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4018
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 5027

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, PINS

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: DEADLINE GIVEN TO COSTA GOMES TO OUST GONCALVES
PASSED AUGUST 28 WITHOUT ACTION. MARATHON MEETINGS OF RULING
DIRECTORATE AND REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WITHOUT ANTUNES NINE
PRODUCED NO DECISIONS. THERE IS INCREASING SPECULATION THAT
NAVY CHIEF AZEVEDO MAY BE ASKED TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT WITH
GONCALVES SHIFTED TO CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF. SUCH
SOLUTION IS REPORTEDLY ACCEPTABLE TO ANTUNES GROUP.
COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL HAS CALLED FOR NEW EFFORT TO FORM
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PAGE 02 LISBON 05027 01 OF 02 292046Z

BROAD FRONT INCLUDING SOCIALISTS AND ALL FACTIONS OF AFM BUT

EXCLUDING PPD. PRO-ANTUNES CENTRAL MILITARY REGION ISSUED TOUGH COMMUNIQUE AUGUST 28. COMMUNIST-INSPIRED POPULAR UNITY FRONT IS ALREADY UNRAVELING. SUPPORTERS OF COMMUNIST-LINING J-5 HAVE BEGUN MEDIA COUNTER OFFENSIVE. GONCALVES AND ROSA COUTINHO ECHOED FAMILIAR THEMES IN PRESS INTERVIEWS. NO NEW REPORTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE LEFT, BUT MORE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE SCHEDULED TONIGHT. END SUMMARY

1. HIGH-LEVEL TALKS: SEVEN-DAY DEADLINE GIVEN PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES TO SACK GONCALVES PASSED AUGUST 28 WITHOUT ACTION. DIRECTORY; CHIEFS OF STAFF OF ARMED FORCES, AND COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION,--EXCLUDING MELO ANTUNES NINE--MET INTO EARLY MORNING HOURS AUGUST 29 WITH NO RESULTS ANNOUNCED. RUMORS ABOUND. FORMULATION NOW GENERATING MOST SPECULATION IS THAT NAVY CHIEF PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO WILL BE ASKED TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT WITH GONCALVES SHIFTING TO CHIEF OF STAFF OF ARMED FORCES AND ROLE OF PRESIDENT UNCERTAIN. ADM. SILVERO RIBEIRO IS ALSO MENTIONED AS ALTERNATE CHOICE TO AZEVEDO.

2. CUNHAL APPEAL: COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL IN AUGUST 28 PRESS CONFERENCE "VEHEMENTLY" APPEALED FOR ALL PERSONS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN SAFEGUARDING REVOLUTION TO SOME TOGETHER IN HOUR OF GRAVE CRISIS. CUNHAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT "NO FORCE OR POLITICAL GROUP IN ITSELF" IS CAPABLE AT THIS TIME OF IMPOSING SOLUTIONS. CUNHAL EXPRESSLY INCLUDED AFM, IMPLICITLY INCLUDED PCP, AMONG GROUPS UNABLE TO RESOLVE CRISIS IF ACTING ALONE. CUNHAL PROPOSED THAT ALL INTERESTED PARTIES COME TOGETHER TO FIND "POLITICAL SOLUTION". GROUPS SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED IN CUNHAL INVITATION INCLUDED: PRESIDENCY OF REPUBLIC; PROVISIONAL GOVT.; REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL; REPRESENTATIVES OF AFM'S LEFT WING; COPCON OFFICIALS; MEMBERS OF ANTUNES GROUP; MEMBERS OF RECENTLY-FORMED POPULAR UNITY FRONT; AND PS. IN ANSWER TO REPORTER'S QUESTION CUNHAL EXCLUDED BY NAME PPD; CDS, THOUGH NOT MENTIONED, PRESUMABLY ALSO EXCLUDED.

3. UNITY FRONT SHOWS STRESS: THE COMMUNIST-INSPIRED POPULAR UNITY FRONT (FUP) CREATED AUG 25 IS ALREADY SHOWING SIGNS OF INTERNAL STRESS. FIRST OF MAY ABANDONED ORGANIZATION AUG 26, PROTESTING PCP EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE HEGEMONY. MUCH-TOUTED FUB AUG 27 DEMONSTRATION REVEALED DIFFERENCES AMONG REMAINING PARTICIPANTS. COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO CONVERT DEMONSTRATION INTO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LISBON 05027 01 OF 02 292046Z

DISPLAY OF SUPPORT FOR VASCO GONCALVES AND FIFTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, CONTRARY TO PRIOR AGREEMENT AMONG PARTIES, LED TO RECRIMINATIONS. PRP-BR, WHICH ABANDONED DEMONSTRATION IN DISGUST AFTER GONCALVES SPEECH, ANNOUNCED AUG 28 IT WAS "RETHINKING" ADHERENCE TO FUP. CUNHAL'S AUG 28 CALL FOR BROADER POPULAR FRONT, THIS TIME WITH INCLUSION OF PS, HAS FURTHER CUT GROUND FROM UNDER FUP.

4. J-5 FIGHTS BACK: J-5 SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING COMMUNIST-LINING LISBON PRESS, HAVE LAUNCHED STRONG COUNTER OFFENSIVE IN EFFORT TO OFF-SET EFFECTS OF AUGUST 27 OCCUPATION OF J-5 OFFICES. STRONGEST VERBAL ATTACKS WERE LEVELLED AT COPCON AND ITS COMMANDER, GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO. COMMANDO LEADER COL. JAIME NEVES AND DEPUTY LOBATO FARIA WERE ALSO ATTACKED. COPCON UNITS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM J-5 CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION OFFICES (WHERE AIR FORCE UNITS WERE PRESENT PRIOR TO AUGUST 27 TO ENSURE PHYSICAL SECURITY OF OTHER MILITARY OFFICERS IN SAME BUILDING.) TROOPS REMAIN, HOWEVER, AT PRINCIPAL J-5 FACILITY, THE MILITARY SOCIOLOGY CENTER. J-5 BROADCASTS HAVE NOT BEEN RESUMED.

5. CENTRAL MILITARY REGION COMMUNIQUE: CENTRAL MILITARY REGION (HEADQUARTERED IN COIMBRA) ISSUED TOUGH STATEMENT AUGUST 29 MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:
--ACTS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE ARE THREATENING ARMED FORCES UNITY WITH PEOPLE;
--ATTEMPTS TO MANIPULATE POPULATION ARE BEING MADE BY POLITICAL FORCES WHOSE GOAL IS IMMEDIATE SEIZURE OF POWER;
--AS CONSEQUENCE OF ABOVE, NATION WITNESSING DIVISION OF WORKING CLASS, ASSAULTS ON PERSONS AND GOODS OF "PROGRESSIVE" PARTIES, EVEN DISRESPECT FOR PRES. COSTA GOMES;
--SOME LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE BODIES HAVE BEEN SELECTED BY UNDEMOCRATIC MEANS; PUBLIC'S RESORT TO VIOLENCE IN ATTEMPT ALTER THIS SITUATION THREATENS PACIFIC TRADITION OF APRIL 1974 REVOLUTION;
REGIONAL COMMAND ACCORDINGLY WILL "HELP RESOLVE" SUCH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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PAGE 01 LISBON 05027 02 OF 02 292058Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 5027

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CASES OF NON-REPRESENTATIVENESS.
--REGIONAL COMMANDS'S UNITS WILL GUARANTEE THAT PORTUGAL DOES NOT
REVERT TO TOTALITARIAN REGIME; POPULATION CAN HELP BY UNEQUIVOCALLY
SUPPORTING REGIONAL COMMAND'S TROOPS.
COMMUNIST-DOMINATED "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" INSERTED EDITORIAL NOTE
ACCOMPANYING COMMUNIQUE STATING ITS ATTEMPTS TO "CLARIFY" TEXT
WERE FRUITLESS, WITH SLOKESMEN FOR COPCON AND MILITARY HEAD-
QUARTERS REFUSING ALL COMMENT.
(COMMENT: CENTRAL MILITARY REGION UNDER BRIG. MANUEL CHARAIS
IS STRONG SUPPORTER OF MELO ANTUNES GROUP. COMMUNIQUE IS FURTHER
WARNING TO PCP/GONCALVES FORCES THAT MILITARY "MODERATES" ARE
PREPARED TO PLAY TOUGH IN BATTLE TO CONTROL PORTUGAL.
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PAGE 02 LISBON 05027 02 OF 02 292058Z

END COMMENT

6. GONCALVES, ROSA COUTINHO INTERVIEWS: AUGUST 29 LISBON PRESS
CARRIED EXCERPTS OF GONCALVES INTERVIEW WITH "LE MONDE" AND
ROSA COUTINHO INTERVIEW WITH PERUVIAN DAILY. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:
--GONCALVES: PORTUGAL FACES CHOICE BETWEEN ADVANCE TOWARD
SOCIALISM OR REGRESSION INTO FASCISM. AFTER 50 YEARS OF FASCISM,
ANY ATTEMPT TO CREATE WESTERN STYLE DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL WILL
RESULT IN UNACCEPTABLE "BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY". DIFFERENTIATING
BETWEEN LEADER SHIP AND RANK ANF FILE OF PS, GONCALVES ACCUSED
FORMER OF HAVING LAUNCHED REACTIONARY OFFENSIVE AGAINST PORTUGAL.
--ROSA COUTINHO: IN LIMA, WHERE HE IS HEADING THE PORTUGUESE
DELEGATION TO CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS, ROSA COUTINHO
OPINED THAT "INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM" SEES DEVELOPMENT OF
SOCIALISM AS THREAT AND IS DETERMINED TO "KILL" IT. THIS ATTITUDE
RESPONSIBLE FOR WESTERN ATTEMPTS TO PORTRAY POLITICAL PROCESS IN
PORTUGAL AS CHAOTIC. PORTUGAL'S BEST DEFENSE AGAINST THIS TACTIC
IS SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER NATIONS SEEKING TO BUILD SOCIALIST
SOCIETIES. ROSA COUTINHO LEAVES PERU AUGUST 30 FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

TO PANAMA PRIOR TO RETURN TO PORTUGAL.

7. PRO-CORVACHO DEMONSTRATIONS SCHEDULED:

IN RESPONSE TO AUGUST 26 PS ANTI-GONCALVES, ANTI-CORVACHO RALLY, THE COMMUNIST-INSPIRED POPULAR UNITY FRONT (FUP) HAS CALLED DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT OF BRIG. GEN. EURICO CORVACHO, WHO HAS STILL NOT RETURNED TO COMMAND OF NORTHERN MILITARY REGION. ANTUNES GROUP HAS SAID HE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO RETURN.

8. COMMENT: INCREASING SPECULATION, MUCH OF IT FROM THE LEFT, THAT AZEVEDO MAY BE PUT FORWARD AS A "COMPROMISE" CANDIDATE INDICATES FURTHER EROSION IN GONCALVES POSITION. GONCALVES AND THOSE WHO THUS FAR HAVE TENACIOUSLY SUPPORTED HIM MAY BE LOOKING FOR SOME WAY OUT WHICH WILL PRESERVE FOR THEM AS MUCH INFLUENCE AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE AFM. AZEVEDO WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO LEFT-LEANING COMMUNIST-INCLINED NAVY GROUP -- RAMIRO CORREIA, JUDAS, CONTREIRAS, AND GUERREIRO -- AND MIGHT BE ABLE TO CAPTURE SUPPORT FROM FENCE-SITTERS -- FABIAO AND PRESIDENT. AZEVEDO WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO MELO ANTUNES GROUP, MORE IMPORTANTLY, SEVEN-DAY DEADLINE GIVEN COSTA GOMES TO OUST GONCALVES PASSED AUGUST 28 WITH NO DECISION.

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PAGE 03 LISBON 05027 02 OF 02 292058Z

9. AIR OF SUPREME CONFIDENCE THAT MARKED RECENT CUNHAL APPEARANCES HAS BEEN REPLACED BY SOBER, SOMBER APPEALS FOR CLOSING OF RANKS BY RESPONSIBLE GROUPS WITH "DUTY" TO SAVE REVOLUTION. HOWEVER, CUNHAL'S ELEVENTH-HOUR APPEAL, COMING SO SOON AFTER FORMATION OF POPULAR UNITY FRONT, HIGHLIGHTS PCP'S OPPORTUNISM AS WELL AS ITS INCREASING ISOLATION.
CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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Type: TE
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